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Farmers could get permit for overweight transport vehicles

LANSING – Farmers would be able to continue transporting their crops to market even if the vehicle is overweight by Michigan road standards under a bill that passed the Senate unanimously today, said Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac.

Many farming vehicles, when transporting crops, are considered too heavy for local roads, which impacts local farmers' abilities to take their harvest to market and back. Senate Bill 779 removes the sunset date on the exemption of certain vehicles to continue allowing farmers to get a permit from the local road agency when hauling crops.

"Agriculture and farming is such an important component of our economy that it is common sense to provide farmers with simple solutions like these exemptions to allow their operations to run efficiently," said Gilbert, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. "It is reasonable to allow overweight farm vehicles to travel the roads now and then and that eliminating the sunset was the correct thing to do."

As is current law, the exemption would not apply during the frost-law period of March, April and May when reduced maximum loads are in effect.

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